

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH  
RECEIVED

26 AUG 1957

NEWTOWN AND LLANIDLOES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1956.

(including Public Health Inspector's Report).

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Medical Officer.

Dr. Amelia Evans, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.,  
Town Hall,  
NEWTOWN.

Senior Public Health Inspector.

H. H. Thomas, Esq.,  
Rural District Council Offices,  
Town Hall,  
NEWTOWN.





NEWTOWN AND LLANIDLOES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman. Mr. D.E. Thomas, J.P.

Vice Chairman. Mr. R.E. Breese.

<u>Members.</u>	J. Wilfred Jones, J.P.	G. L. Lewis
	E. T. Nutting	J. O. Jones
	J. E. Bebb	H. B. Davies
	T. E. Jones	T. E. Lewis
	T. E. Huxley	W. P. Pugh
	P. E. Abel	Sydney Jones
	D. M. Jones	C. W. Pritchard, J.P.
	Evan Thomas	E. Owen Griffiths
	Francis Woosnam	D. S. Griffiths
	J. W. Griffiths	E. Owen Jones.

Staff:

Medical Officer of Health. Amelia Evans, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector. H. H. Thomas.

Additional Public Health Inspector. A. Maddocks.

Rodent Operator. G. L. Thomas.

Administrative Assistant. E. G. Corfield.

To the Chairman and Members of the Newtown and Llanidloes  
Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the year 1956 on the health and sanitary conditions in your district, and which is arranged in accordance with the Welsh Board of Health Circular 19/56 (Wales).

Staff. There were no Staff changes in the year under review.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.

The birth rate for 1956 was 15.38 per 1,000 population compared with 13.12 in 1955. The rate for the rural districts in the County was 15.05 and for Montgomeryshire 15.0.

There was 1 still birth, being 0.7% of the live births. In 1955 this rate was 2.4%. In the rural districts of the County this rate was 1.2% and in the whole County 1.8%.

There were 6 illegitimate births, being a percentage of 4.3 of total births, compared with 3.2% in 1955. The rate for the rural areas was 4.1% and for the whole County 3.94%.

Infantile Mortality.

There were 6 infant deaths under 1 year, which gives an infant mortality of 43 per 1,000 live births, compared with 25 per 1,000 in 1955.

In the rural areas the rate per 1,000 was 32 and in the whole County 30.

The causes of these infant deaths were :-

- (1) Boy aged 1 day due to prematurity and atelectasis - that is, the lungs did not expand properly. He weighed only 2 lbs.
- (2) Boy died after 2 hours due to prematurity.
- (3) Girl died after 1 day due to prematurity and atelectasis.
- (4) Girl died at 48 hours due to congenital abnormality.
- (5) Boy died at 11 months - the cause being pneumococcal pneumonia with early meningitis.
- (6) Boy died at 8 months with congenital hydrauphalus.

Deaths.

There were 96 deaths from all causes, giving a rate of 10.55 per 1,000 population compared with 13.12 per 1,000 in 1955. The rate for the rural districts was 11.31 and for the whole County 12.19.

There was one death due to tuberculosis.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.

No action was taken under this Section.

I should like to express my thanks to my colleagues, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Maddocks for the constant help and interest which they have given relating to problems of public health and to Mr. Gray, the Clerk, and his assistant Mr. Weaver, for help on innumerable occasions on many and varied matters.

In order that a local Authority should work efficiently it is essential that there should be co-operation between the members of the Council and the officials it employs. In regard to this Council, it can certainly be said that this co-operation exists. Consequently this Council can be pleased with its efforts to improve conditions for the people who live within the district. Their efforts at times may appear to meet with frustration and delays beyond their control, but already many of our villages have now a piped water supply and several have sewage disposal works, and it is the Council's intention to improve the conditions in other villages.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

AMELIA EVANS.

# S T A T I S T I C A L   S U R V E Y.

	<u>1956.</u>	<u>1955.</u>
Area in acres    ...    ...    ...    ...	... 151,231	151,231
Population (Registrar General's Mid Year Estimate)    ...	9,100	9,220
Rateable Value    ...    ...    ...    ...	... £44,074	£21,247
Sum represented by penny rate. (estimated)	£168	£84.18.7d.

# VITAL STATISTICS.

## LIVE BIRTHS.

	<u>1956.</u>			<u>1955.</u>		
	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
TOTAL:	74	66	140	71	50	121
Legitimate	71	63	134	69	48	117
Illegitimate	3	3	6	2	2	4

Birth rate per 1,000 population:-

For Newtown & Llanidloes R.D.	15.38	13.12
For Rural areas	15.05	14.45
For Montgomeryshire	15.0	14.87

## STILL BIRTHS.

	<u>1956.</u>			<u>1955.</u>		
	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	0	1	1	2	1	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0	0	0	0

Percentage of total births:-

For Newtown & Llanidloes R.D.	0.7	2.4
For Rural districts	1.2	3.0
Whole County	1.8	2.6

## INFANT MORTALITY.

	<u>1956.</u>			<u>1955.</u>		
	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks	2	2	4	1	2	3
" Infants up to 1 year	4	2	6	1	2	3
For Newtown & Llanidloes R.D.	4			25		
For Rural areas	2			30		
For whole County	30			28		

## DEATHS.

	<u>1956.</u>			<u>1955.</u>		
	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
All ages	55	41	96	64	57	121
Death rate per 1,000 population:						
For Newtown & Llanidloes R.D.	10.55			13.12		
For Rural Districts	11.81			12.49		
For whole County	12.19			12.57		



# CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>1956.</u>			<u>1955.</u>		
	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	0	1	2	0	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Syphilitic Disease	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningoccal Infections	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other infective & parasitic diseases	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	1	5	3	0	3
do lung, bronchus	2	0	2	3	0	3
do uterus	0	3	3	0	0	0
do breast	0	2	2	0	2	2
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	6	3	9	5	5	10
Leukaemia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diabetes	0	1	1	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	9	14	8	11	19
Coronary disease (angina)	2	5	7	8	1	9
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2	2	1	3
Other heart disease	3	7	10	12	14	26
Other circulatory disease	4	2	6	4	3	7
Influenza	0	0	0	2	1	3
Pneumonia	1	0	1	0	0	0
Bronchitis	7	1	8	2	1	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	0	1	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach, duodenum	2	0	2	2	0	2
Gastritis, enteritis or diarrhoea	0	0	0	0	1	1
Nephritis, nephrosis	1	0	1	0	0	0
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	0	2	2	0	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital malformations	4	1	5	1	1	2
Other defined and ill defined diseases	6	3	9	3	12	15
Motor Vehicle accidents	1	0	1	1	0	1
All other accidents	1	2	3	2	2	4
Suicide	1	0	1	0	0	0
	55	41	96	64	57	121

### AGE DISTRIBUTION AT DEATH.

<u>Age in years.</u>	<u>1956.</u>			<u>1955.</u>		
	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Under 1	4	2	6	1	2	3
1 - 5	0	1	1	2	0	2
5 -	0	0	0	1	0	1
15 -	0	0	0	1	0	1
25 -	3	0	3	1	1	2
35 -	0	0	0	1	1	2
45 -	4	3	7	1	2	3
55 -	6	7	13	8	2	10
65 -	14	7	21	23	13	36
75 -	17	13	30	17	25	42
85 and over	7	8	15	8	11	19
	55	41	96	64	57	121

### TUBERCULOSIS.

Six cases were put on the register during the year, 4 of these were new cases and 2 were transferred into the area :-

The new cases were :-

- (1) Male of 28 years with glandular involvement.
- (2) Male of 75 years with pulmonary involvement.
- (3) Female of 19 years with pulmonary tuberculosis.
- (4) Male of 64 years with involvement of the lungs and spine.

The transfer-in cases were:-

- (1) Female of 33 with pulmonary involvement.
- (2) Female of 19 with pulmonary involvement.

There was 1 death due to pulmonary tuberculosis. This was a man aged 47 years when he was notified in 1955.

One case left the district - a woman who was 24 in 1953, when she was notified with peritonel involvement.

At the end of the year there were 54 notified cases of tuberculosis living in the district.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The infectious diseases which are notifiable are :-

Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Acute Poliomyelitis, Measles,  
Diphtheria, Dysentery, Meningococcal infections,  
Acute pneumonia, Smallpox, Acute encephalitis, Typhoid fever,  
Paratyphoid fever, Erysipilas, Food poisoning.



Of these, 136 cases of Measles were notified and 5 cases of pneumonia.

An epidemic of Measles started in the Urban area towards the end of September and spread to the Rural during October. Although some of the cases were fairly severe, no deaths resulted.

Quarterly Distribution -

1st Quarter ending March 31st, 1956	-	3 Acute pneumonia.
2nd " " June 30th, 1956	-	2 Acute pneumonia.
3rd " " Sept. 30th, 1956	-	None.
4th " " Dec. 31st, 1956	-	136 Measles.

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION OF MEASLES.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Under 1 year	0	1
1 -	0	3
2 -	3	5
3 -	6	6
4 -	3	6
5 - 9	22	38
10 - 14	16	16
15 - 24	1	4
25 and over	4	2
Total	55	81

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Ambulance: The local service consists of the St. John Ambulance and is responsible to the Ambulance Committee of the County Council Health Committee.

Telephone Nos. Caersws 225.  
Newtown 205 (9.0.a.m. - 5.0.p.m.)  
Newtown 359 (after 5.p.m.)  
Llanidloes 381.

Sitting Car Service - All enquiries to County Health Office, Newtown.  
Telephone No. Newtown 205.

Children's Officer: This office is established by the County Council under the terms of the Children's Act, 1948. The Children's Officer is :-

Mr. S.M. Parsons,  
Children's Department,  
County Offices,  
WELSHPOOL. Telephone: Welshpool 3311.

The Children's Reception Home is at -

12, Bronwyllfa,  
WELSHPOOL. Telephone: Welshpool 3109.

## Domiciliary Midwifery and Home Nursing:

The District is served by :-

Sister C. Lloyd Jones,  
Bryneglwys, Newtown. Telephone: Newtown 497.  
Mochdre and Dolfor.

Sister E. F. Humphreys,  
The Moat, Kerry. Telephone: Kerry 62.  
Kerry, Sarn and Abermule.

Nurse C. J. Lloyd.  
Brynolwg Cottage,  
New Mills. Telephone: Tregynon 250.  
Tregynon, Bettws, New Mills,  
Manafon, Adfa and Bwlchyffridd.

Sister R. E. Jones,  
Dudley House,  
Llanidloes. Telephone: Llanidloes 244.  
Llangurig, Cwmbelan, Old Hall.

Nurse Griffiths,  
Tynycoed,  
Llandinam. Telephone: Caersws 344.  
Llandinam, Oakley Park, Llidiartywaen.

Sister E. J. Richards,  
Birchen House,  
Trefeglwys. Telephone: Trefeglwys 217.  
Trefeglwys, Llawryglyn, Staylittle, Van.

Nurse E. Wainwright,  
Vine Cottage,  
Llanwnnog. Telephone: Caersws 249.  
Caersws, Mochdre, Aberhafesp.

Nurse A. S. Peate.  
Y Glyn,  
Carno. Telephone: Carno 215.  
Carno, Clatter, Pontdolgoch.

## Home Help Service.

Home Help service is available in certain cases on application to the Supervisor:-

Mrs. R. Goodwin,  
County Health Offices,  
NEWTOWN. Telephone: Newtown 205.

## Hospitals.

The area is served by the Montgomery County Infirmary, Newtown, and the Llanidloes and District Hospital, both of which take surgical, medical and midwifery cases. The hospitals are controlled by the Mid Wales Regional Hospital Board at Aberystwyth.

### Laboratory Service.

A Branch of the Public Health Laboratory Service is at the Cardiganshire General Hospital, Aberystwyth, under the direction of:-

Dr. M.N.V. Sudds. Telephone: Aberystwyth 216.

Very frequent use is made of this laboratory, in the testing of water samples especially.

### Maternity and Child Welfare.

The County Council is responsible for this service. Clinics serving the area are held at :-

- |                |                      |   |
|----------------|----------------------|---|
| (1) Newtown    | - Park Street Clinic | - every Wednesday afternoon.                            |
| (2) Llanidloes | - Assembly Room      | - second and last Wednesday<br>each month, at 2.30.p.m. |
| (3) Staylittle | - Community Centre   | - third Thursday each month<br>at 2.30.p.m.             |
| (4) Caersws    | - Village Hall       | - last Friday each month,<br>at 2.0.p.m.                |

### Tuberculosis.

This service is controlled by the Regional Hospital Board. Dr. G.O. Thomas, the Chest Physician, holds Clinics to serve the district at :-

- |                |                    |   |
|----------------|--------------------|---|
| (1) Newtown    | - County Infirmary | - 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month<br>at 11.0. a.m.                 |
| (2) Llanidloes | - Hospital         | - Saturday before the last Tuesday<br>each month at<br>10.30.a.m. |

### Vaccination Against Smallpox

This is carried out in the District by the local general practitioners.

### Protection against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough.

Immunisation against diphtheria is carried out at 9-12 months, followed by a booster dose at 5 years. However, this protection can now be offered combined with protection against whooping cough. This procedure consists of 3 injections at monthly intervals, starting at 4-6 months and followed by a booster at 5 years.

This service is carried out at the local Clinics and Schools, and also by the general practitioners.

### Poliomyelitis.

In 1956 a small amount of Polivirin was made available to vaccinate children born in the years 1947-54. Because of the limited amount of vaccine, children were selected by the month of their birth. However with increasing supplies it is hoped to be able to vaccinate in 1957 all children whose parents have consented and to extend it to children born in 1955 and 1956.

Because of the fact that this vaccine has to be stored at a certain temperature and because of the still fairly restricted supplies, vaccination is carried out by the Medical Officers employed by the County Council at Schools and Clinics throughout its area.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending December 31st, 1956.

The following is a summary and classification of inspections carried out during the year :-

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Byelaw .....	251
Refuse Disposal .....	17
Sewage Disposal .....	119
Water Supplies .....	452
Disinfection .....	3
Miscellaneous .....	362

FOOD & DRUGS ACT. ..... 227

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

Surveys - Inspection ...	41
Miscellaneous .....	11
Section 11 and 25 .....	32

HOUSING ACTS, 1949/54.

Inspections in respect of grant applications .....	294
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The number of grants approved during the year was 37, and the number of approved schemes completed during the year was 38. This figure shows an increase of practically 100% over the number of schemes completed during the previous year. The steady increase in the number of applications under the Act indicate that property owners are aware of the benefits which are available under the Act. The amount of grant paid to owners in respect of the 38 schemes completed amounted to £7,675. 0. 0d.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The total number of samples taken during the year and submitted for analysis was :-

(a) Chemical samples .....	5
(b) Bacteriological samples .....	119
(1) Satisfactory samples .....	64
(2) Unsatisfactory samples .....	55



The high percentage of samples submitted for examination and returned as unsatisfactory, indicates that the water from private sources is far from that which is desired. During the year 45.8% of the samples analysed were found to be unsatisfactory.

Samples from the various Council supplies examined indicate that the water is of a high bacteriological standard.

At the end of the year eight schemes were in operation throughout the district, two schemes, one at Kerry and the other at Sarn were completed but not operating; the delay in operating the Kerry scheme was due to the water requiring further filtration to remove excess suspended matter. It is hoped that early in the new year the filters will be installed and the scheme put into full working order.

Details of the schemes so far constructed are :-

Village.	Source.	Storage Cap.	Length of Mains. 3" & 4"	Treatment.
Caersws	Well	32,000 gals.	4,114 yds.	Filtration, chemical settling tanks.
Llangurig	Bore	5,000 gals.	1,784 yds.	Chlorination.
Tregynon	Bore	18,000 gals.	1,456 yds.	Chlorination.
Adfa	Bore	7,000 gals.	1,225 yds.	Chlorination.
Carno	Bore	15,000 gals.	2,750 yds.	Filtration, Chemical.
Sarn	Bore	10,000 gals.	4,230 yds.	Chlorination.
Llandinam (a)	Upland streams	10,000 "	5,623 yds.	Chlorination.
(b)	do	500,000 "	6,244 yds.	Chlorination- part supply.
Cwmbelan	Well	1,500 gals.	1,176 yds. 1½ gal. iron pipe	Filtration.
Kerry	Bore	15,000 gals.	3,204 yds.	Chlorination & filtration.
Llanwnog	Bore	13,500 gals.	1,580 yds.	Chlorination.

#### FOOD INSPECTION.

A satisfactory standard of cleanliness was maintained in all premises visited. There are within the area four licensed Slaughter-houses where the slaughter and preparation of animals for human consumption is carried on. No new premises were licensed during the year. The licensed premises are situated as follows :-

- (1) Bronfelin, Caersws.
- (2) The Temperance, Tregynon.
- (3) Bont, Trefeglwys.
- (4) Glynawel, Clatter.

During the year the following number of carcasses were inspected :-

Beasts.	Pigs.	Sheep/Lambs.
169	217	1091.

The following meat was condemned :-

- 3 sheep carcasses (1 casualty, 1 immatured, 1 fevered)
- 6 bovine livers (Parasitic)
- 29 sheep livers (Parasitic)

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT. No new licenses were issued under the Act during the year.

FOOD PREMISES - CLASSIFICATION. The total number of food premises in the area is as follows :-

Grocery & General Stores .....	28
Butchers .....	6
Slaughterhouses .....	4
Cafes .....	6
Licensed premises .....	16
Confectioners/Tobacconist .....	2
Guest Houses/Private Hotels .....	5
Bakehouses .....	1

HOUSING. During the year the progress of the Council's Housing schemes was :-

Caersws. Scheme of the provision of 11 houses was completed.

Llangurig.	do	do	6	do
Adfa.	do	do	4	do in course of construction.
Kerry.	do	do	14	do do

The total number of houses owned by the Council and occupied was 121.

During the year 11 plans were approved for the construction of houses by private enterprise.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The total number of visits and treatment of premises carried out under the Act during the year :-

Type of Premises.	Number of Inspections carried out.	Number of Infestations found.	Number of Infestations treated.	No. of Re-visits made in connection with treatment.	Number of premises where infestations were treated by Occupiers.
Agric. Properties.	857	54	31	106	20
Business Premises.	124	16	13	51	2
Private Dwellings.	828	44	44	160	-
L.A. Properties.	52	18	18	96	-
Total	1,861	132	106	413	22

I am,  
Yours faithfully,

H.H. THOMAS.  
Senior Public Health Inspector.



